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## What is a drug eluting stent?

A **stent** is a metal, wire mesh tube used to prop open a coronary artery during angioplasty (balloon). The stent stays in the artery permanently and within a few weeks, the artery lining will grow over the metal surface of the stent. This stent has a high incidence of blockages building up inside the stent.

A **drug eluting stent** has embedded, time-released medication that slowly releases into the area surrounding the stent. This medication works to minimize blockages from building up inside the stent. This stent is a tremendous breakthrough in medical technology and has proven to be the best option for most patients.

Patients having a drug eluting stent must take an antiplatelet medication for 18-24 complete months. This oral medication works with the medication in the stent to prevent clotting that can cause heart attacks, stroke or even death.

## What is antiplatelet therapy?

**Plavix (clopidogrel) or Effient (prasugrel) are antiplatelet medications that will help slow or prevent clotting that can cause heart attacks, strokes and death. Plavix or Effient must be taken WITHOUT INTERRUPTION after the drug eluting stent is placed.**

You may experience more bruising than normal and cuts may take a little longer to clot. There may be some dental or surgical procedures that will require that you hold Plavix or Effient. **Do not stop your Plavix or Effient for any amount of time before speaking to your cardiologist or nurse at CIS.**

**WARNING: Never stop Plavix or Effient without first speaking to a CIS provider even if another physician or surgeon insists that Plavix or Effient must be stopped for a procedure.**

There are other medication options that may still allow you to have the necessary procedure, but your cardiologists will need to review your history prior to giving those directions. **Holding Plavix or Effient, even for a few days, can have serious effects like heart attack, stroke and death.**

Stent Inside a Coronary Artery

